District	Name of Centre
1991-92	
Bharuch	6. Gandhar
1992-93	
Banaskantha	7. Chatodar
Jamnagar	8. Harshadpur
	9. Theba
	10. Bedwa
Kheda	11. Kasor
	12. Lambhvel
	13. Simarda
Junagarh	14. Khageshri
	15. Jamvala
	16. Alidhra
Mehsana	17. Mau
	18. Chansol
Panchmahal	19. Shehra
	20. Bakor
	21. Diwada Colony
	22. Mota Varachha

(c) Average population per bank office (APPBO) in Gujarat as on June 30, 1993 works out to 12,000 in rural areas which compares well with the national APPBO of 13,000.

(d) and (e) The aim of Branch Expansion Policy 1985—99 was to achieve a population coverage of 17,000 (1981 census) per bank office in rural and semi-urban areas in each block so as to eliminate wide spatial gaps in the availability of banking facilities so that a rural branch was available generally within a distance of 10 kms. With the opening of bank branches in rural areas, the average population per bank branch in rural and semi-branch areas has come down to 13,000 by the end of 1989. At present, there is a network of 35313 branches of commercial banks in the rural areas of the country. Nevertheless, there may still be need for a number of additional bank branches in rural areas generally on two counts.

(i) Service area allocated to a bank branch may be found to be unmanageable due to large number of villages allotted, number of constituents to be catered to and long distances|difficult terrain involved in servicing the area.

(ii) The increase in business of a rural branch justifiably warranting an additional bank branch which could be viable.

Under the Branch Expansion Programme 1990—95 of Reserve Bank of India, it has now been left to the judgement of the individual banks to assess the need for additional bank branches in the respective service areas of their rural branches.

INTRODUCTION OF GUJARAT DEVELOPMENT BONDS

2547. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat have submitted any scheme for introduction of Gujarat Development Bonds, to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Central Government thereto;

(d) whether Government have accepted the proposal ; and

(e) by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (e) The Government of Gujarat had in November, 1992 proposed the issue of bonds to finance the Sardar Sarovar Project, relying on Government of India to absorb the foreign exchange risk. The proposal was, however, subsequently modified as a domestic public issue and the issue has recently been completed.